

### RAIN AT MIDNIGHT.

Midnight Rain,  
That comes in  
Heard 'mid the rustling of weary pain!  
Thy cadence brings  
Sweet thoughts of peace on silver-tinted wings.

In this dim town,  
I hear thy thousand streamlets trickle down;  
Ere thou hast fled,  
Tell me, O Rain! the source where thou hast fed.

I see arise  
Bright pebbles from blue violet eyes;  
I see the mist  
Come from the wood-rill's ripples, evening-kissed.

The green fields gleam  
Before me, as to thy sweet rhyme I dream;  
And birds and flowers  
Are with me in my restless midnight hours.

More blest than they,  
I feel the fragrance of the summer sea;  
Along the coast  
I see the never-resting billows tost.

Living here still,  
Thoughts of the ocean make my sad heart thrill—  
That calm repose  
With strength and majesty and glorious life.

Each gong long-sought,  
From dewdrop or from distant waters brought,  
O bounteous Rain!  
Thou scatterest for a blessing on the grain.

Spend and be spent!  
O gracious Rain! through thee I grow content;  
Thy calm-voiced spell  
Goes deeper in the heart than words can tell.

Watching through night,  
Many with me await the morning light  
In pain or care,  
Or rapt, it may be, in the trance of prayer.

To each, to all,  
Hearing thy rhythmic music softly fall,  
Sweet thoughts may come  
Of him who by his ways doth lead us home.

For not one drop  
Falls from the cloud upon the bare hill-top—  
Falls, through dark hours,  
Upon the closed chalice of the flowers;

Or on the sea,  
Or on the numerous thickly-foliated tree,  
What else would pine and, drooping, sadly perish.

And shall the tear,  
Shed by the Father's well-loved children here,  
In doubt and pain,  
Fall for a less purpose than the Rain?  
—Chambers' Journal.

### THE EXCAVATIONS AT POMPEII.

It is now 133 years since the discovery of some bronze utensils and a few statues beneath the soil of the plain which stretches from the foot of Mount Vesuvius to the sea attracted the attention of the art and antiquity loving monarch, Charles III. of Naples, and led to the unearthing of the buried city of Pompeii. Within that time nearly one-half the ruins have been freed from the superincumbent mass, in some places more than twenty feet thick, which covered them. Two hundred and sixty-four thousand six hundred square meters have been excavated, and 398,084 still remain to excavate.

The works are at present, and have been for a period of nearly twenty years, under the able direction of Signor Michele Ruggiero, to whom the writer is indebted for the principal facts contained in this article. The title which Signor Ruggiero bears is that of "Directing Engineer of the Excavations of the Antiquities of the Kingdom of Italy." The greater part of his life has been devoted to unearthing the relics of the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations, the latter of which flourished so abundantly at the beginning of our era, in the vicinity of the present city of Naples. In 1848 he was made director of the excavations at Pozzoli, in 1862 he assumed the direction of the works at Pompeii, and in 1877 he received his present title. Signor Ruggiero is the contemporary of M. Fiorelli, whose name is perhaps better known than any other in connection with Pompeii. M. Fiorelli, now in his 57th year, resides at Rome, where he administers the affairs of the various museums devoted to antiquity throughout Italy, the works at Pompeii and elsewhere being carried on by his successor according to the plans devised by him.

The history of the excavations at Pompeii may easily be sketched. The town was twice destroyed. In A. D. 63, when Vesuvius had been quiet for centuries, a terrific earthquake shock occurred, evidencing the reawakening of the volcanic forces. A great part of Pompeii—its colonnades, theaters and private dwellings—was destroyed. Scarcely had the inhabitants begun to rebuild their town, when it was overtaken by the final catastrophe of the 24th of August, A. D. 79. The first attempts at uncovering the ruins were made by the ancient inhabitants. Though deterred from any second attempt at rebuilding their city by this last and most awful visitation, occurring while they were in the act of restoring the ruin wrought by the earthquake, they nevertheless returned in parties, seeking under the mass of earth and lava such of their valuable treasures as were within easy reach. Subsequent eruptions covered the traces of their work. Finally, those who had lived in the city died and were forgotten, the story of Pompeii became a historical legend, and all traces of its existence passed from off the face of the earth.

During the Middle Ages Pompeii was entirely unknown. In 1592, the architect Fontana, while constructing a subterranean water conduit to supply the town of Torre dell' Annunziata, cut a passageway through a portion of the ruins, but made no further investigations. No attempts were really made at excavating the ruins until the work was set in motion by Charles III. in 1748. Then the amphitheater, theater and other parts were disintegrated, and the world began to discover that here, guarded by the earth for seventeen centuries, were the remains of a Roman city in such a state of preservation, and containing such rich relics, that the whole public and domestic life of the inhabitants, their manners, customs and habits, might be understood, from the holding of a tribunal in the Forum to the baking of a loaf of bread in a baker's oven.

The wonder and enthusiasm that followed are indescribable. The number of workmen now employed in the excavations, under the direction of Signor Ruggiero, may be estimated at about 100. At times there may be twice as many engaged, but this is about the general average. A force of about eighty is employed in digging the earth, which is removed by a railway beyond the limits of the city. This railway, which was built in 1861, is an innovation upon the manner in which the business of transporting earth is usually accomplished in Southern Italy. It is the habit of the workmen—or the woman, by whom such labor is frequently

performed—to carry the loose earth for any distance in baskets mounted upon their heads. At Pompeii it is only carried in this way from the spot where it is dug to the railway which carries it off. The digging is done by a rude spade; but great care is taken when once a frescoed wall has been approached, or the interior of a house discovered, that no mischief shall be done by carelessness. The work is constantly superintended by an able overseer, who directs the operations of the persons under him.

As soon as any valuable object is discovered from the ruins, whether it be a statue, a vase, a domestic utensil, or a fresco of more than ordinary beauty, it is taken at once to the small museum or depository near the entrance, established about 1860. Here it is cleaned and repaired, after which operations it is transferred to the National Museum at Naples. In the center of this depository there are arranged in glass cases some of the most curious and terrible objects connected with the buried city. They are plaster casts molded by the cavities once filled by the remains of inhabitants of Pompeii. Within two years there were found among the ruins eighty-seven human skeletons, and three dogs and seven horses. When the volcano first burst forth, there came in the beginning a rain of ashes, which covered the city to a depth of three feet. These ashes have preserved to a certain extent the bodies of the unfortunate creatures whom they overwhelmed. Although the soft parts of the bodies had decayed in course of time, their forms frequently remained imprinted on the ash, which afterward hardened. In 1863, M. Fiorelli made the ingenious experiment of carefully removing the bones of a body thus imbedded, and filling the cavity with plaster. It succeeded most admirably in preserving as he wished the figures and attitudes of the victims after their death-struggle. In the moment of flight many had divested themselves of most of their clothing. Among the figures are a young girl with a ring on her finger, a mother clasping her youthful daughter, and a man lying upon his left side. These terrible casts show only too well the awful agony in which these wretched creatures died. Smothered by the ashen rain, tortured by the burning lava, these shapes of plaster represent the most horrible examples of human suffering. There is one cast of a dog, which, at the moment that death intervened, had writhed himself into an attitude that must have wrenched joint from joint. In addition to this museum a school and library were established at Pompeii some fifteen years ago by M. Fiorelli, the students, who gave themselves to archeological studies, being supported by the Government. Under a new and recent organization they are permitted to spend their time in visiting the excavations going on in different parts of the peninsula, and remain only a portion of the year at Pompeii.

The year 1880 and the early part of 1881 were especially fertile in discoveries of value and importance in Pompeii. A large number of buildings, mostly dwelling-houses, were unearthed and many interesting objects obtained. Among the most important relics of ancient art was a bronze fawn or satyr, ornamenting, when found, the facade of an imposing mansion. This fawn is fifty-five centimeters in height, beautiful in execution, but more or less injured by the coloring matter that was originally used upon it. The head is surrounded by a wreath, and on the shoulder rests a huge leather bag or bottle. The glance of the fawn is turned toward the neck of the bottle, and he appears to be watching an imaginary stream with a sort of half-drunken ecstasy. Such designs as these were frequent among the Pompeians for their fountains, fane and satyrs in various stages of inebriety being a favorite subject with their artists. Another bronze found in a similar position to this one, on the facade of a mansion, represents Cupid with the dolphin. The marine animal is perched upon the boy's right shoulder; while in his left hand he holds a flower.

A very remarkable group of statuettes was found in a chapel situated off the main hall, or atrium, of a house. These chapels were quite customary in Pompeian dwellings, and contained the Lares and Penates or household gods, with which each family was usually well supplied. The main figure, a female deity representing Fortune, is seated between two Lares, while above her head was suspended an elegant lamp. The goddess is covered with an ample tunic and a mantle. The various parts of the chair or throne were covered with handsome ornaments, as were also the circular bases supporting the Lares. Two Tritons in the act of sounding their trumpets are perched upon the back of the chair. The latter is pronounced by artists and archeologists in Italy to be a most perfect model of the sculptured chairs usually found in antique monuments. The lamp is a remarkable object, being shaped like a human foot clad in the most elegant boot, and was originally profusely ornamented with silver, now thoroughly oxidized by the influence of time.

The works of art and other relics that have been transferred from Pompeii to the museum at Naples occupy a large portion of that immense building, which was originally built in 1586 by the Viceroy, Duke of Ossuna, for a cavalry barracks, and 200 years later was fitted up for the reception of the royal antiquities and pictures. The Pompeian frescoes alone fill more than one-half the rooms on the ground floor. Seven rooms and a corridor scarcely furnish sufficient space to accommodate the collection. They are grouped according to their subjects, and each group is furnished with a Roman numeral. These works are, with the exception of painted vases and mosaics, almost the only specimens of ancient paintings that have come down to us. From them we learn how the painters of those early times treated light and color and shade. Many of them are beautifully conceived, and executed with an easy, masterly touch. Their range is wide, including landscapes and historical and mythological subjects. Some of them may be copies from celebrated or favorite pictures of the time, but the style is such as to preclude the idea that they were mechanically copied or stenciled, and the easy, rapid execution shows that they were intended for effect, and not for close inspection. The bronzes and marbles

from Pompeii are remarkably well preserved.

The upper story of the museum is almost exclusively devoted to relics of Pompeii. Here are the household utensils, the earthen dishes, the drinking vessels, the loaves of bread, and the other remnants of charred food and clothing that were discovered among the ruins. These objects give one almost a more vivid impression of the terrific calamity that overtook Pompeii than a visit to the city itself. Here are the bottles of oil, the pans filled with meat, the bread taken from the oven, the remains of fish, dates, nuts, eggs and all the other articles of food that supplied the table of a Roman family. One of the most significant objects is a well-preserved purse containing three copper coins, and suggesting that the fortunes of some one among the inhabitants of Pompeii were at a low ebb.

The parts of Pompeii which have already been excavated are probably the most important, although there is of course no means of knowing what may lie under the green acres at present undisturbed. We have, however, the Forum with the contiguous temples and public buildings, two theaters with large colonnades, the amphitheater, and a considerable number of private dwellings of more or less ornate character. The streets bordered by pavement are straight and narrow, the widest not being more than twenty-four feet in breadth, but they are admirably paved with large polygonal blocks of lava. At intervals, especially at the corners, are placed high stepping-stones leading from one side of the pavement to the other, intended for the use of foot-passengers in rainy weather. The wagons have made deep ruts in the causeways, and the horses' hoofs have made impressions on the stepping stones over which they were obliged to pass. In the streets are frequently seen notices painted in red letters, referring generally to the election of the municipal authorities, and recommending some particular individual as a candidate or dunmiv, for the purpose of averting the evil eye, and one or two large snakes, the emblems of the Lares, the gods of the hearth and of crossways, are very common. Stuccoed walls are often covered with roughly-scratched drawings resembling those wherewith the street Arabs of our own day delight to decorate blank surfaces.

The dwelling-houses of Pompeii differ greatly in size, and were obviously fitted up in accordance with the nature of the situation or the means and taste of their owners. A few are built of block stone, but the majority of small stones or brick consolidated with cement. The patched and hasty manner of their construction is doubtless accounted for by the haste with which they were erected and restored after the earthquake. Most of the apartments are very small, but the family worked and spent most of their time in the airy courts. Marble is rarely to be met with in the public or domestic architecture of Pompeii, the columns being invariably constructed of tuffstone or brick cemented with mortar. The brick walls and columns were then covered with stucco, which took the place of marble, and afforded ample scope for decorative painting.

Those of the public buildings of Pompeii that have been excavated are grouped near together. The central point is the Forum. Here, 109 feet above the level of the sea, stand the ruins of this building, never finished, but raised to half its imposing height only to be destroyed. Six streets converge here, but the Forum was protected against the trespass of riders or of wagons by stone pillars around the margins, and could even be entirely shut off by gates. In the interior may still be seen the solid bases prepared for the statues of Emperors and other illustrious men. At the eastern end of the Forum stands the so-called "Temple of Augustus," a building the object of which is involved in a mystery that no scholar or antiquarian has ever been able to solve. In front of it are pedestals for statues, and shops mostly occupied by money-changers. The interior consists of a rectangular court still unfinished when the catastrophe took place. To the right, as the visitor enters, are eleven chambers simply painted red. On the east side, opposite the entrance, rises the principal shrine, to the left of which is another with an altar. This was, perhaps, employed in the celebration of sacrificial banquets. The gallery on the left side is believed to have been an orchestra. To the right, a larger apartment, containing stands of masonry, with a slight inclination, and furnished with gutters below to carry off blood or water, is believed to have been a kitchen. The "Thermae," or public baths, situated near the Forum, occupy a space enclosed by four streets. The different apartments for hot and cold baths are easily traced. In one a niche at the end contains a marble basin for washing the hands and face with cold water. An inscription near by records that it was erected at a cost of 5,250 sesterces, or about \$200. Beside these baths there is another and larger establishment called the Stabian Thermae.

One of the most interesting of the temples of Pompeii is that dedicated to Isis. This, as the copy of the inscription over the entrance informs us, was restored after the earthquake of 63 by N. Popilius Colossinus, a boy of 6 years, at his own expense, who in recognition of this service was received into the rank of deities. This small boy must have been a most precocious young antiquarian, and with tastes differing widely from those usually characteristic of his species. There is a natural inclination to fancy that there must have been some fanatical devotee of adult years in the case, who despoiled the small boy of his fortune while the latter was eating his bread and molasses, serenely unconscious of what was being done with his possessions. The proportions of this temple were about 90x60 feet. The court is surrounded by a porticus, and between the columns are several altars. An ancient aperture for the reception of the remains of sacrifices is now used as an air-shaft for the Sarno Tunnel. When the ruin was first excavated, a statuette of Isis was found, several bodies were discovered, and on the fireplace were remains of food. One of the best-preserved portions of Pompeii is the "Street of Tombs." Here, upon each side of the great military highway leading from Capua to Naples, Pompeii and Regio, stand a number of the magnificent tombs, monuments covered with inscriptions that

the Romans were so fond of erecting along their great thoroughfares for the reception of their dead. —Harper's Weekly.

### FARM NOTES.

WITH London sewage as a fertilizer certain varieties of beets have been raised weighing upwards of sixty pounds each.

The first shipment of wheat from Chicago was made in 1839, and consisted of seventy-eight bushels, which was carried via lake to Buffalo, N. Y.

The Maryland farmers have so little faith in their agricultural college that they are calling upon the Legislature to refuse an appropriation to the institution.

The London *Agricultural Gazette* states as within its experience that a bull calf, taken from a pedigree Shorthorn cow, has weighed above 190 pounds when removed from the dam.

One who has been successful under the system of ensilage plants his corn in hedges about thirty-two inches apart, and about six inches wide, planting forty or fifty kernels to the running foot, and secures thereby a wonderful growth.

The Canada thistle perpetuates itself chiefly by means of root stalks, which are full of dormant buds, and hence any piece of inch long will send up a stalk. A single plant in an ordinarily cultivated field will soon spread all over it by means of the roots.

In a state of rest animals should be allowed as much water as they will take, but where they are likely to be called upon to perform severe exertion, smaller quantities are advisable, and in which case the allowance should be repeated at short intervals.

The annual product of wheat in the world is about 1,500,000,000 bushels. Of this the United States already produces 450,000,000 bushels, one-third of which we send over the sea. Ten years from now we shall produce a much larger portion of the whole, and shall send a much larger fraction of its abroad.

TENDENCY to disease is hereditary in pigs, therefore it is well to know the pedigree and past history of your boars. Ninety per cent. of the stock of a large Yorkshire boar were more or less affected with lung disease. On inquiry, it turned out that the sire of the boar had died of inflammation of the lungs.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Pa., is said to be the largest wool-growing county in the Union, and produces annually 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 pounds of wool, worth in cash \$1,000,000 for the wool alone, besides the sale of fine sheep for breeding purposes, and mutton sheep and lambs for the meat market of the East.

The more exertion an animal undergoes the greater is the wear and tear of the system. Exercise increases the respiration or breathing, more oxygen is consequently taken into the system, and the tissues of the body are burned up in proportion. Unless this extra waste is met by an additional supply of food emaciation and illness follow.

The wild boar differs from the tame hog in putting his hind feet into the marks of the fore feet. The cloven feet of the tame hog divide as he walks; the wild boar, when he is walking without suspecting danger, keeps his claws close together. The wild hog buries his snout deep, rooting the earth up in a straight line before him; the tame hog turns it up right and left, here and there. The wild boar grows for four or five years and lives for twenty or thirty.

AN ANALYSIS of a sample of apple pomace from a press of more than ordinary power, and hence unusually dry, was made at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, with a result showing the pomace to carry food elements superior to corn fodder and to turnips, mangels, and all of our root crops except the potato, and showing but little inferiority to the last-named tuber. The new system of ensilage should render the preservation of apple pomace a matter of ease and certainty.

IN SPEAKING of his experience with feeding ensilage to dairy stock, J. W. Walcott, of Readville, Mass., states: "As to the quality of the cream I can say that by feeding fifty pounds of ensilage maize, and one quart of cottonseed meal, the increase over the amount when feeding English hay and six quarts of corn meal, averaged twenty-five per cent. in milk, and ten per cent. in butter from the milk, which is a total gain in butter of thirty-seven and a half per cent. The butter brings the highest market price in Boston."

Hogs are gifted with an exquisite sense of smell as well as touch residing in the snout, and this enables them to discover roots, acorns, earth-nuts, or other delicacies suitable to their palates, which may be buried in the ground. In some parts of Italy swine are employed in hunting for truffles that grow some inches below the surface of the soil, and which form those pickles and sauces so highly esteemed by epicures. A pig is driven into a field, and there suffered to pursue his own course. Wherever he stops and begins to root with his nose, truffles will invariably be found.

FARMYARD manure well decomposed is specially suitable for grass lands, because it is slow and continuous in its action, and is invariably found to maintain or restore a good variety of grasses, clovers and other bottom herbage. The best success commonly follows the application of such manure in the fall. The sole application of salt or nitrate of soda has a natural tendency to encourage the growth of luxuriant grasses to the destruction of clovers and the finer kind of grasses. This is a general tendency of ammoniacal salt, while superphosphate of lime, on the contrary, encourages the growth of clovers and leguminous plants generally.

higher. In London sirloin roasts retail at 22 cents per pound, rib roasts at 22 cents, side pieces at 20 to 21 cents, steak bones 16 cents, brisket 14, beef steaks 24, rump steaks 30 and shins at 16 cents per pound. Veal cutlets were selling at 30 cents per pound.

W. S. WARD, Fullers' Station, N. Y., in the *American Bee Journal*, gives the following statement of his profits with bees for one year: "For several years I have run a farm and apiary together. Last year I had my farm worked on the shares, and gave my time and attention to the bees, with the following result: Commenced the season of 1881 with seventy-two colonies; increased by natural swarming to 120; have sold 7,422 pounds of comb and 749 pounds of extracted honey, for which I received \$995.06; my expenses were \$118.70, which leaves \$876.36 for my work. I had empty hives and honey racks left from 1880. I would advise those who think of sowing sweet clover for hay to try a little at first, as it makes pretty coarse hay; but it is one of the best of honey plants. There are two kinds—white and yellow blossom. The white yields very white honey." The *Journal* adds that the white sweet clover is the variety wanted by bee-keepers. The yellow blooms two to three weeks earlier than the white, but bees do not work in it, either for honey or pollen.

### HOUSEHOLD HELPS.

[Contributed to the Detroit Free Press "Household" by Housekeepers, and the results of actual experiments.]

SPONGE CAKE.—Two eggs, half cup of cream, one cup of sugar, one cup of flour, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half teaspoonful of soda; flavor to taste. Extra nice.—*Mrs. California.*

SPRING PUFFS.—Have ready some very hot lard, as for boiling doughnuts, and drop into it from a spoon some bread, sponge before any more flour is added, and when it is perfectly light. Let them get brown and well cooked through, and pull open and eat with butter for breakfast.—*Keystone.*

LEMON PIE.—One large lemon, the yellow grated, and all the pulp and juice used; one cup sugar, a half cup water, and two large even spoonfuls of flour. Beat the whites of eggs separately, with sugar added, then the yolks well beaten and the flour gradually. Bake the crust a little before putting the rest in. Bake brown.—*Keystone.*

BAKED CABBAGE.—Boil a firm head for fifteen minutes, then change the water for more boiling water; boil till tender, drain and set aside to cool. Mince some boiled ham; mix with bread crumbs; add pepper, one tablespoonful of butter, and two eggs well beaten, and three tablespoonfuls of milk; chop cabbage very fine; mix all together and bake in a pudding-dish till brown. Serve hot.—*Old Lady.*

CAKE OR FRUIT SANDWICHES.—Cake or fruit sandwiches are made thus: Four eggs, their weight in flour, sugar, and butter; warm the butter and beat it to a cream, then stir the flour and sugar into it gradually, beat up the eggs and stir them in. Beat the cake well for half an hour and bake in a rather quick oven. If for sandwiches slice the cake in half and put preserves between.—*Corr-pine.*

WHITE CAKE.—One cup of white sugar, one-third cup of melted butter whipped to a cream; add one-third cup of sweet milk and stir thoroughly; sift one cup of flour, one-third cup of corn starch, and one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder together and add to the above mixture. Take the whites of four eggs, beat them to a very stiff froth, and add, stirring it well with the other; flavor with lemon; bake slowly, either in jelly-cake tins or in one cake. Excellent.—*Nip Up.*

ICE CREAM CAKE.—Two cups of granulated sugar, one cup of milk, two cups of flour, one cup of butter, one cup of corn starch, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, whites of eight eggs. Ice-cream.—Whites of four eggs and four cups of pulverized sugar. Pour one-half pint of boiling water over the sugar, boil until when dropped in water it is very stiff, but not brittle. Pour over the beaten whites of the eggs and add, when hot, one-half teaspoonful of citric acid. Bake in layers.—*D. B.*

PARSNIPS.—Wash well; scrape them, and cut in two or four pieces lengthwise; boil in water with a little salt in it until tender, which will be in from one-half to three-quarters of an hour; when quite done dish up in a warm dish, with melted butter poured over them, or warmed butter with a little minced parsley in it; or mash the parsnips and form into small cakes, roll in flour, or dip in egg or bread crumbs and fry a little brown; send to the table very hot. You can also brown the parsnips sliced rather thin.—*Corr-pine.*

BAVARIAN CREAM.—Whip one pint of cream to a stiff froth, laying it on a sieve. Boil another pint of cream or rich milk with a vanilla bean and two tablespoonfuls of sugar until it is well flavored; then take it off the fire and add a half a box of Cox's gelatine soaked for an hour in half a cupful of water in a warm place near the range; when slightly cooled stir in the yolks of four eggs well beaten. When it has become quite cold and begins to thicken stir it without ceasing a few minutes until it is very smooth, then stir in the whipped cream lightly until it is well mixed. Put it into a mold or molds, and set it on ice or in some very cool place.—*Corr-pine.*

### He Forgot.

"Now," said the Austin Justice to the witness, "you will please tell precisely how it happened."

"Yes, sir, I'll try. The prisoner and that man were eating dinner at the same table, and they got to quarreling, when the prisoner just up with a dab of mashed Irish potatoes and hit that other man on the head with it."

"Do you, sir," said the Justice, sternly, "pretend to tell the court that a dab of mashed potatoes, even when thrown with the greatest violence, can make a gash five inches long on a man's head, and knock him senseless? If you trifle with the court you will be locked up."

"Judge, I reckon I forgot to say that when the prisoner threw the dab of mashed potatoes at the man, he forgot to first take the dab out of the dish."—*Texas Siftings.*

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